



# WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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## FEATURES:

**CYCLONE ALFRED**  
Queensland Deployment

**WOW DAY**  
SES Units Celebrate Wear  
Orange Wednesday

**WAFES AWARDS**  
SES Finalists Announced

**MARGARET RIVER**  
Joint Emergency Services  
Mass Casualty Exercise

**SES RESCUES**

- Kununurra Andy's Chasm
- Albany Mt Hallowell
- Tom Price Fortescue Falls

**UNIT MILESTONES**

- Gosnells 45 Years
- Esperance 60 Years

**VOLUNTEER OF  
THE YEAR FINALISTS**

- Nicole Kelly, Tom Price
- Millie Penman, Mandurah

*The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.  
acknowledges the funding from the Dept  
of Fire and Emergency Services of WA that  
supports the operation of the Association.*





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## From the President

Dear SES Volunteers,

Following on from National Volunteer Week and WOW Day, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible contributions each of you makes to our communities through your dedication and service. This year, DFES had some exciting events planned to celebrate our volunteers and the vital work you do.

During the National Volunteer Week celebrations, SES Units along with DFES hosted a series of events to honour our volunteers. These celebrations included recognition ceremonies, community engagement activities, and opportunities for volunteers to share their experiences and stories. We encouraged all units to participate and showcase the amazing work being done across the State Emergency Service.

On the 21st of May we celebrated Wear Orange Wednesday. WOW Day is the National day of celebration for the SES and is dedicated to recognising the outstanding efforts of SES volunteers and the impact they have on our communities. SES Units and DFES organised various activities, including community outreach programs and social media campaigns to highlight the incredible work of our SES members. WOW Day is a memorable day for SES Units and volunteers!

Several SES Units took the opportunity to celebrate important milestones. Whether it was a significant anniversary, completing key training programs, or successfully responding to emergencies, these accomplishments were deservedly recognised and celebrated.

Please share your unit's milestones with us so we can highlight them in our upcoming communications.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and service. Together, we make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Let's celebrate our achievements and continue to inspire one another.

Kind Regards,

**Greg Cook President, SES Volunteers Association**



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## PETER KEILLOR AWARD

Amy Drage	Geraldton– Greenough SES Unit
Connie Reed	Newman SES Unit
Leslie Hayter	Margaret River SES Unit

## SES YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Joshua Yates	Margaret River SES Unit
Lucas Fraser	SES Communications Support Unit
Riley Symington	Mandurah SES Unit

## SES TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Esperance SES Unit  
Kununurra SES Unit  
Tom Price SES Unit

*“Congratulations to every finalist. They were chosen from a talented group of nominees who each had a unique story, a journey filled with challenges, achievement and countless hours of service to the community.”* Melissa Pexton, Acting Commissioner

More information on the Awards Finalists is available on the [WAFES Awards Website](https://www.wafes.org.au).

## 2025 SESVA Elections — Management Committee

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE —TUESDAY 15th JULY 2025**

Use the link below for more information and download the nomination form:

[SESVA Elections 2025– SES Volunteers Association of WA \(ses-wa.asn.au\)](https://www.ses-wa.asn.au)



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## from the SECRETARY'S desk

Email Allen Gale for more information [sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au)



## Vale Craig Masarei

The SESVA farewells a  
dear friend



*The SES Volunteer's Association of WA collectively mourns the passing of Craig Masarei, a highly respected legal professional, community leader, and generous volunteer.*

*Craig gave freely of his time, wisdom, and integrity to support causes that mattered most recently, through his work on the SESVA Legislation sub-committee from 2022 until his passing.*

*Craig's expertise in law, governance and public service brought immense value to the sub-committee during a critical time of anticipated legislative reform. His thoughtful and principled advice helped shape the SESVA's position on the drafting of the proposed changes to the WA Emergency Services Act. Through his insight, he provided a unique perspective that balanced the needs of volunteers with robust governance frameworks. Craig was instrumental in producing the SESVA's key publications that communicated these complex issues clearly and effectively, leaving a lasting legacy on the direction of emergency services legislation.*

*Beyond his contributions to the SESVA, Craig served as a Councillor for the Town of Cottesloe from 2019 to 2023, where he passionately advocated for sustainable community development.*

*Professionally Craig graduated from the University of Western Australia with a law degree and practiced for 15 years before serving as Chief Legal Officer and Company Secretary at Water Corporation for 22 years. He also chaired the Water Corporation Superannuation Plan and the Parkdale Investment and Equity Trust.*

*His commitment to the broader community was further exemplified through his 22 years of service on the board of Alzheimer's WA Ltd including 19 years as Chair. He was an active member of several professional associations.*

*Craig will be remembered not only for his impressive professional achievements but also for his humility, generosity, and unwavering commitment to community and volunteer service. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the SESVA and the many communities he passionately served.*

*We honour Craig's legacy with deep gratitude and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and all who knew and respected him.*





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## Management Committee

## Positions becoming vacant at the 13th SEPTEMBER AGM

### SES volunteers can nominate SES volunteers for positions becoming vacant:

- ♦ Units in the relevant regions are invited to nominate SES volunteers for the position in that region.
- ♦ ALL Units are invited to nominate SES volunteers for election as President and Vice President North.
- ♦ All nominations are required to be signed off by the Local Manager.

### Committee member positions becoming vacant in September:

#### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Kimberley Region

Pilbara Region

Goldfields-Midlands

Great Southern Region

South West Region

South East (Metro) Region

South Coast (Metro) Region

North East (Metro) Region

Each DFES Region has an elected SESVA representative which is part of the SESVA Management Committee. The representative's role is to be the local person to work on any matters for the SES Units and to assist where issues have not been resolved by the Regional Office or DFES.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President

Vice President North

The formal representative of the SESVA is the President, or their designated delegate. Only the President or their delegate is authorised to make verbal or issue written public statements regarding Association business and policies. In the absence of the President, a Vice President will act as the Chairperson at meetings and carries out other duties, including support of the elected regional representatives.

## SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2025 NOMINATIONS CLOSE—TUESDAY 15th JULY 2025

Find the nomination form and nomination information at the end of this Newsletter and these links:

[Fillable](#) PDF Form [SESVA Elections 2025 Information](#)



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*from the SECRETARY'S desk*

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## SESVA Raffle

Raffle #06 was drawn Friday 30 May 2025 with the proceeds benefiting  
SES volunteers in WA. Winning **Ticket No: 25060012454**

First Prize: **\$1,500 Coles/Myer Gift Card**

Raffle #07 commences 10 June and will be drawn 29 August 2025.

**Win a \$1,500 Coles/Myer Gift Card — tickets are only \$2.00**

Tickets can be purchased online [nationalsesvaraffle.org.au](http://nationalsesvaraffle.org.au) or by calling **1300 804 562**.

**ABOUT THE RAFFLE:** The National SES Volunteers Association offers people the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets on-line, as well as through phone calls from its licenced fundraising agents.

The agents **do** make calls offering to sell the NSESVA raffle tickets.

They agents **do not** make calls only seeking donations.

The profits from the sale of raffle tickets go to the SES Volunteers Association in the state where the tickets were sold and are used to support SES volunteers.

Donations to the National SESVA can be made via their website by clicking on the "Support Us" button.

[NSESVA | Advocating for Australia's SES Volunteers](http://NSESVA | Advocating for Australia's SES Volunteers)

### APOLOGY & CORRECTION May Monthly Update

The article on the WA Young Emerging Leaders travel to Canberra incorrectly spelled Lilika's surname.

The correct spelling of Lilika's surname is *Allam*.

The SESVA apologises for any confusion, distress or inconvenience this error may have caused.



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## EOIs Open – SESVA Bus Replacement Working Group

The SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc) is seeking **Expressions of Interest** from SES volunteers to join a new **Bus Replacement Working Group**.

This group will:

- Explore options to replace SESVA's 8 current buses
- Assess suitable vehicle types for SES activities
- Identify potential sponsors

We're looking for SES leaders and volunteers with experience or interest in fleet logistics, sponsorship, or operational planning. The group will be chaired by a SESVA Management Committee member.

### To apply:

Send your name, SES unit, role, and a brief summary (max 300 words) to Greg Cook,  
[sesva.president@ses-wa.com.au](mailto:sesva.president@ses-wa.com.au)

 For more information, contact: Greg Cook – 0418403960.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Submit your articles, photos,  
feedback and suggestions to:  
[sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au)

Wed 11 Jun	Thank a First Responder Day	Tue 26 Aug	W-AFAC, Perth—until 29 Aug
Tue 17 Jun	SESVA Monthly update submissions due	Fri 29 Aug	<b>WAFES Awards and Gala Dinner</b>
Fri 04 Jul	<b>SESVA Monthly Update</b> published	Fri 05 Sep	<b>Spring Newsletter</b> published
Sat 12 Jul	Emergency Services Footy Match Freo vs Hawthorn (highlighting SES & other Volunteers)	Sat 13 Sep	SESVA Annual General Meeting, Belmont
Tue 15 Jul	Management Committee nominations due	Tue 16 Sep	SESVA Monthly update submissions due
Tue 15 Jul	SESVA Monthly update submissions due	Fri 03 Oct	<b>SESVA Monthly Update</b> published
Sat 19 Jul	Emergency Services Footy Match West Coast vs Richmond (highlighting young volunteers)	Fri 31 Oct	Bernie McNamara YEL applications close
Fri 01 Aug	<b>SESVA Monthly Update</b> published	Tue 18 Nov	Summer Newsletter submissions due
Tue 19 Aug	Spring Newsletter submissions due	Sat 29 Nov	Youth in Emergency Services Challenge
		Fri 05 Dec	<b>Summer Newsletter</b> published



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## Metro SES Leaders - Pre Winter Forum Held at the Perth Zoo, Saturday 24 May

Volunteer leaders from SES units across Perth's four Metropolitan regions gathered for the Forum. The event provided an important platform for sharing updates, strengthening relationships, and focusing on volunteer wellbeing.

**Led by Lilika Allam, Nannup SES:** Serving as MC, Lilika guided the day with professionalism and energy, setting a positive tone for the sessions ahead.

Opening Address: **Deputy Commissioner Craig Waters AFSM** officially opened the forum, acknowledging the critical contribution SES volunteers make across the state and nationally, especially during storm season across the Metropolitan regions.

### Key Sessions:

- **WA Police – Land Search—Sgt Jason Ralls** (Emergency Operations Unit) explained how and when SES teams are deployed for searches, emphasising coordination between **WAPOL** and **DFES**.
- **Bureau of Meteorology – Bunbury Storms—Gianni Colangelo** Two major storm events from 2024 were compared, with key lessons shared around forecasting, communication, and response strategies.
- **Keynote: Andrew Horrobin (Bullshift)** Andrew introduced the “**Relationships Ladder**”—moving from adversarial to collaborative working styles—and challenged attendees to reflect on how relationships shape organisational culture.
- **What's New for SES?** An overview of recent updates impacting SES fleet, SES lightweight PPC and other.
- **Metro Operational Briefing—Acting Assistant Commissioner David Gill** provided key Metropolitan updates specific to Operations.
- **Wellness Focus – Mental Health - DFES Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator Emily Pestell (DFES)** offered strategies for maintaining good mental health and wellbeing in volunteer roles. Information packs were handed out.
- **MOVAT: Updates & Features - Belmont-Victoria Park SES Stuart Romero** (owner/developer) showcased new capabilities and enhancements to the MOVAT system.
- **Metro Operations Explained - DO John Landwehr** The forum concluded with a breakdown of the **Metropolitan Duty Coordinator's** role and the functions of the **Metropolitan Operations Centre** during emergency events.

Closing: **Acting AC David Gill** thanked all for their service and leadership, and encouraging continued collaboration.



Master of Ceremonies,  
Lilika Allam, Nannup SES



Above: **PANEL—Training, Vol. Portal, PPC, Fleet, Ops.**  
L-R: Supt. Ryan Murray, Dist. Officer David MacLean,  
Vol. Hub System Coordinator Andrea Dinse and  
Chief Supt. Grant Pipe





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## TRAINING MATTERS

*"If people are to perform their job to the highest possible standard, they must be effectively and efficiently trained"*

### VOLUNTEER TRAINING ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE

The Volunteer Training Advisory Group (VTAG) was formed by DFES to provide a forum to communicate, raise and resolve matters between DFES and Volunteers of DFES (SES, VFES, VFRS and Marine Rescue) and Bushfire (BFB) Services, relating to all aspects of volunteer training. Membership includes nine DFES staff and 10 volunteers (two from each of the Associations including the Bushfire Volunteers Association).

Vice President Alan Hawke and Committee Member Les Hayter represent the SESVA on the VTAG which should meet every six months. From the meeting held on 10th May 2025, we report the following:

#### New Training Centre

DFES has identified the site of a new all hazards training centre. Project development is pending State Government funding, so completion is a long way off.

#### Course Development

Training curriculum development for SES and Marine Rescue (MR) is delayed because of DFES staffing. We can only hope that DFES provides the necessary funding to meet its commitments.

#### Course Improvement Recommendations

Training courses cannot improve without your input using the *Initiation and Improvement Recommendation (IIR)* reports. You can find more information about improving training by submitting your suggestions online via the Volunteer Hub ([How to recommend training improvements](#)). This process is the training primary means of communication for changes to training products. We are assured that DFES Training Development Support & Compliance looks at every IIR.

In the past, there was no feedback on IIRs, which is believed to have resulted in a reduction in feedback. The Academy is working on creating a dashboard to remedy the lack of feedback for those who lodge IIRs. This will be a dynamic dashboard and will include historical IIRs. DFES reports that evaluation of the dashboard is in progress. Access is also planned through the Volunteer Hub.

#### Working at Height Project

The project ([Working at height](#)) is progressing to rolling out doctrine and equipment from sometime later in 2025 with completing in 2026. Changes are being brought on by the need to limit (eliminate!) the risk of injury to staff and volunteers. Judging from the feedback received from all services, volunteers will not be happy with the changes. DFES is being influenced by WorkSafe WA and industry standards.

#### Leadership Training

We can anticipate changes in the near future to leadership training. The starting point will be an online course, **Introduction to Leadership**. This will be a 10 minute course in modules. To progress to any leadership role, volunteers will then need to complete **Leadership 1**. This will be a two day course that replaces *Leadership Fundamentals*. New topics are expected to include mentoring and coaching. For volunteers in more senior leadership roles, there will be a **Leadership 2** course. District officers and above will progress to Leadership 3 and GradCert Leadership.

#### Nationally Recognised Training

After research and consultation with SES units, the overwhelming view of volunteers is the desire for volunteers to be credited with nationally recognised training, such as Certificate II and III (SES Operations). The Association is working with DFES to enable funding to support this proposal.

*Submitted by SESVA VP South, Alan Hawke.*



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## Salient points from the Policy Paper

- ◆ Natural Disasters occur every year. Future disasters are more likely than not to occur
- ◆ We know with absolute certainty that future disasters will have a material effect on the fiscal outlook over the forward estimates.
- ◆ National cost of natural disasters is around \$6 billion over forward estimates.
- ◆ There is considerably greater return on spending ahead of disasters than after the fact.
- ◆ Not recognising future disaster expenditure falls short of transparent and responsible budgeting, distorts decision making, and creates a bias against investment in climate adaptation.

## Policy Paper: Budgeting for Natural Disasters

### Transparency and accuracy in the fiscal treatment of disaster recovery

Australia is facing an escalating number of natural disasters, with each event requiring substantial government recovery expenditure.

In just the past six months, tropical cyclone Alfred struck Queensland and New South Wales, while severe bushfires swept through the Grampians National Park. These events and their associated recovery costs, are not exceptions; future disasters are inevitable.

Yet, our federal budget continues to treat these inevitable costs as uncoded contingent liabilities, failing to account for their predictable impact.

Intrigued? Check out the Policy Paper via this link:  
[250423-Budgeting-for-natural-disasters.pdf](#)

## APPLY NOW – PART TIME POSITION

### SESVA Administration Officer

Belmont, Perth WA

The SES Volunteers Association is seeking a suitably qualified individual to join the team on a part time basis as the Administration Officer to the Executive, and to provide administrative support. This is a great job opportunity to showcase your skills in a stand-alone role.

**SES volunteers!** This is an exciting opportunity where you can apply your experience in an environment that will reward you daily.

**Interested?** Send a current resume and cover letter explaining why you should be considered for the role to Janet Cooper, email: [janet@all4people.com](mailto:janet@all4people.com)

**You can view more information about the role [HERE](#)**



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## EMERGENCY SERVICES MINISTER LAUNCHES AT GARVEY PARK

# WOW DAY



Emergency Services Minister Paul Papalia was joined by DFES Acting Commissioner Melissa Pexton at Ascot, to launch the 2025 WOW Day celebrations. Volunteers from Canning-South Perth, Belmont and Mandurah SES Units demonstrated the SES flood rescue boats.

Minister Papalia acknowledged the valuable contribution that SES volunteers make to WA communities stating, "They deserve recognition every day of the year, not just today." "We should thank them every day of the year for the fantastic work they do and contribute to the community." Melissa Pexton spoke about what WOW Day means to her, "WOW Day is an incredible opportunity for us to say thank you to SES volunteers and bring recognition to these amazing community members who dedicate so much time to helping our department deliver such an amazing service to Western Australia."

Mandurah SES volunteer, Lauren Bailey, spoke of her volunteering from joining Mandurah SES 16 years ago as a cadet. "I feel so privileged to have been given opportunities to develop skills through volunteering that I can transfer to my daily life." "There's roles for most people, usually based on what they do best and can serve the community in time of need. "I encourage everyone to volunteer and not to be anxious about registering their interest. "You don't just give you also receive. "You'd be surprised the amount of people around you that are involved in volunteering in some way; I love it."



Anti-clockwise from top left:

Minister Papalia speaks with Canning-South Perth SES members James Keating (L) and Varun Sequeira (R) .

Acting Commissioner Melissa Pexton; Lauren Bailey and Minister Papalia with Belmont-Victoria Park and Canning-South Perth flood boats and crew in background.

Lauren Bailey, Mandurah SES;

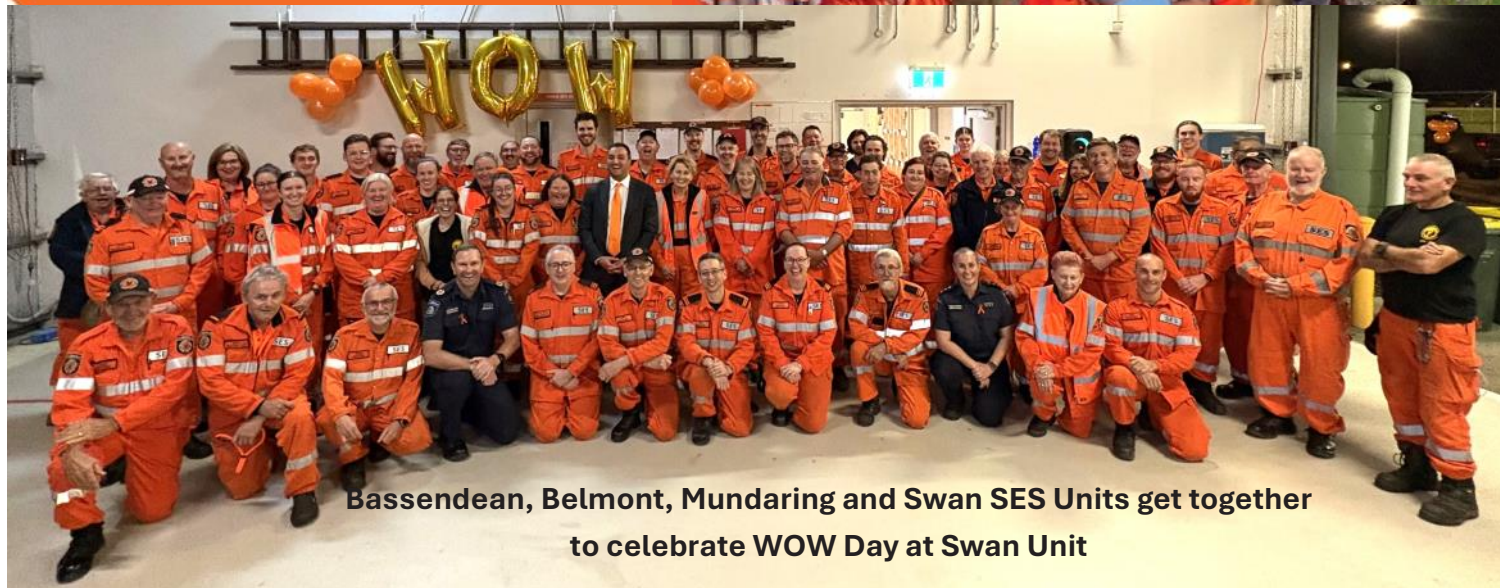
Belmont-Victoria Park SES and Canning-South Perth SES Flood Rescue crew.

Acting Commissioner Melissa Pexton with flood boats and crew in background.



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## WOW DAY ROUND UP



Bassendean, Belmont, Mundaring and Swan SES Units get together  
to celebrate WOW Day at Swan Unit



Mount Barker SES Unit and Melville SES Unit  
celebrate Wear Orange Wednesday



*From WA Agricultural College Narrogin*



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## WOW DAY ROUND UP



### WOW DAY AWARDS

Swan SES Unit's WOW Day Celebrations offered an opportunity for North East Superintendent Clint Kuchel to present North East Local Managers with a Superintendent's Award Certificate.

Pictured receiving their awards are Rod Potter, Mundaring SES (right); Steve Blackford, Bassendean SES (below right); and Daryl Coleman, Swan SES (below). Stuart Romero Belmont SES, was not available for a photo op.

The Superintendent's Award recognises a Local Manager's valued leadership and contribution to the Metro North East Region.







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## WOW DAY ROUND UP



**A WOW BBQ was held at the new Stirling SES premises in Osborne Park for all of the North Coastal SES Units.** More than 120 volunteers, including SESVA Vice President Leonie Briggs and Committee member Megan Reynolds, attended the evening and had the chance to have a look through unit's new building. Also in attendance were Chief Supt. Will Blackshaw, Supt. North Coastal Andrew Duckworth, Dist. Officer Glenn Hall and City of Stirling staff .

## COCKBURN STAGES A 'TOO, TOO' WOW TRAINING EXERCISE



Full story on the  
Cockburn training  
exercise over page





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## Cockburn SES puts the WOW into Training: Celebrating SES Teamwork and Skill

The Cockburn Unit alongside Gosnells, Canning, Melville, Rockingham, Mandurah and the Communication Support Unit came together for the WOW Day Competition, a day dedicated to honing our skills and celebrating Wear Orange Wednesday.

With nearly 100 participants, the competition featured five stands that put our rope-work, stretcher carrying, and communications expertise to the test. The energy was high as teams tackle each challenge with determination, reinforcing the resilience and adaptability that define our service.

A special thank you to Lee from Rockingham Unit, who ran this event for the previous two years, ensuring its success and strengthening the SES spirit.

This day was a reminder of the camaraderie, dedication, and skills that keep our communities safe. Whether it's training or real-world emergencies, events like this reinforce why we do what we do.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Let's carry this momentum forward and continue supporting one another in the work we do!







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## Team Echo: A Journey of Resilience in the Aftermath of Cyclone Alfred

In the wake of Cyclone Alfred's impact on Brisbane and Queensland in March 2025, the call for assistance echoed across Australia. The Qld State Emergency Service (SES) was mobilising teams from various states to aid in the recovery efforts. Among them was WA SES Team Echo, a group of dedicated volunteers from country Western Australia, ready to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Among the volunteers was a group of experienced and seasoned SES members with a passion for community service. They had been with the SES for many years, responding to emergencies ranging from bushfires, rescues to floods. When they received the notification about the deployment to Brisbane, they felt a mix of excitement and determination. They knew that the aftermath of a cyclone could be chaotic, but they were ready to face the challenges ahead.

As Team Echo arrived in Brisbane the scene was one of quiet calm. The vibrant Moreton Bay Islands of the off the coast of Brisbane was now a landscape of fallen trees, damaged homes and debris scattered across the streets. The air was thick with the smell of wet earth and the sounds of chainsaws and machinery as crews worked tirelessly to clear the damage. We all felt a surge of purpose as we stepped off the barge, ready to make a difference.

The team was quickly briefed on their mission: to assist with debris and tree removal, provide support to affected families, and help restore essential community spirit. We were grouped into teams focused on clearing roads and helping residents access their homes. With chainsaws, shovels and a strong sense of camaraderie, Team Echo set to work.







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## Team Echo: A Journey of Resilience in the Aftermath of Cyclone Alfred cont'd

As they moved through the neighbourhoods, the impact of the cyclone became more apparent. Some homes were uninhabitable, and families were displaced, seeking shelter in evacuation centres. The teams worked alongside local volunteers, clearing fallen trees and debris from driveways and roads, allowing emergency services to reach those in need.

One day, while cleaning a particularly challenging area, they encountered a lady who seemed to have lost everything. Standing outside her home she watched the SES crews work in a neighbouring house. She was scared to engage with the teams and very anxious about her personal safety. Trust needed to be established, which took some time, but the professional conduct of the team helped dissolve long held cultural barriers including mistrust of government and authorities, enabling the team to provide the assistance she needed.

With the help of Team Echo, we organised a temporary repair and connected her with local support services. We sincerely hope that provided food, clothing and emotional support helping her navigate the immediate aftermath of the cyclone. Our hearts swelled with pride as we witnessed the resilience of the community coming together to support one another in this time of need.

The deployment reached conclusion, but Team Echo continued its efforts to restore normalcy, clearing debris, assisting with rebuilding and providing emotional support.

Listening and learning provides our teams an invaluable opportunity for community interaction and experience their appreciation. There's a reason we do what we do: the satisfaction of helping others in need. Feeling Orange, that's what feeling Orange is.







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Members of Gosnells SES and invited guests gathered at Mills Park Function Centre on 10th May to celebrate the Unit's 45th Anniversary at a Gala Dinner and Awards Presentation event, sponsored by the City of Gosnells.

The anniversary celebration brought together the entire "Orange Family" and really showed how much impact the unit has had over the past 45 years.

What made the night really special was seeing all the different generations come together. The unit's original founding members came together with the current generations of volunteers.

The life members received their well-deserved recognition alongside current members. Together young and old chip in to keep the legacy of this historic unit alive.

Seven of the eight past local managers attended the event. Former local manager and long serving SESVA President Phil Peterson was remembered for his service to the unit. For the unit to have only nine local managers over the past 45 years shows the extraordinary leadership the unit has produced.

Attendance of the City of Gosnells Councillors demonstrated the strength of the partnership between the SES and the City, and that Gosnells SES is a cornerstone of the City's community spirit and getting people involved.

There were several presentations throughout the night, Read the full story

Images:

Top: City of Gosnells Councillors

Right top: Cherese Green, Gosnells SES Local Manager

Right middle: Former Local Managers and founding members Ken Clark, Terry Reynolds and Jim Ridgewell cut the cake with other LMs looking on.

Right bottom: SESVA President, Greg Cook







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## Gosnells SES Celebrates 45 Years Serving the Community cont'd..



L-R row 1: Supt Scott Hares and Life Member/founding member Jim Ridgewell with City of Gosnells Mayor Teresa Lyles; SESVA President Greg Cook and Gosnells SES Local Manager Chereese Green (centre); Chereese Green accepts a bouquet from a Gosnells SES unit representative.

L-R row 2: Supt Hares presents recognition plaques to former unit Managers; Matt Pestell, Paul Hollamby, Terry Reynolds and Mark Geary.

L-R row 3: Supt Hares presents recognition plaques to former unit Managers; Jim Ridgewell, Sue Petersen (for Phil Peterson dec.), Graham Fixter ESM and Ian Button.

L-R row 4: Supt Hares presents a recognition plaque former to unit Manager Ken Clark; City of Gosnells Councillors (centre); Supt Hares presents a recognition plaque to former unit Manager Joe Taylor ESM.



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## Esperance SES Marks 60 Years of Service

On April 12th the combined Esperance SES and Marine Rescue celebrated with a Sundowner at their Colocation building.



SESVA President, Greg Cook, presented a plaque on behalf of the Management Committee to the Esperance SES in recognition of sixty years of dedicated service to the local and neighbouring communities by the SES volunteers. Speeches and presentations were made before the local volunteers and other volunteers who travelled from Albany, Mount Barker and Kalgoorlie as well as many invited guests from as far way as Perth.

Local Manager and Commander Leonie Henderson gave a detailed account of the 60 year history of the two services. Her presentation highlighted key milestones, from the unit's formation in 1964 as the Civil Defence and Emergency Service, through decades of major operations, infrastructure development, and evolving capabilities. Members recalled defining moments such as the 1967 search for three fishermen at Cape Le Grand, the 1976 joint SAS training exercise "Operation Mandrabilia", and more recent achievements, including the launch of Volunteer 4 and the acquisition of the new Dolphin remote controlled life buoy in 2024.

The evening was not only a reflection on past achievements but a celebration of the volunteers—past and present—whose dedication has shaped the organization into what it is today. Several long serving members were recognized with service medals, ranging from 10 to 50 years.

Guests also heard about the future direction of the unit, including planned training initiatives, equipment upgrades, and an ongoing commitment to community safety and emergency response. The event closed with a stranding ovation for the volunteers and strong message of appreciation for their tireless work.

DFES' Superintendent Derek Jones and Marine Services Manager Mark Eatts cut a ceremonial ribbon and unveiled the new honour boards, crafted from salvaged timber from the historic Esperance Tanker Jetty. The boards proudly display the names of those who have served with distinction across the decades, ensuring their legacy is remembered by generations to come.

Members and guests enjoyed an informal supper, sharing stories, reconnecting with old friends, and welcoming new members into the fold. The atmosphere was one of pride and camaraderie, reflecting the strong sense of community that underpins both SES and Marine Rescue in Esperance. The evening served as a reminder not only of how far the units have come, but of the enduring values of volunteerism, resilience, and service that continue to drive their success.



L-R: Deputy Michaela Maloney and Local Manager Leonie Henderson display the SESVA plaque to mark 60 years serving the community.







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## JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES EXERCISE MARGARET RIVER

Over 50 emergency services personnel from eight agencies - WAPOL, DFES, Margaret River SES, St John Ambulance WA, Volunteer Marine Rescue, VFRS, VFES, Surf Life Saving, together with a team of local volunteer actors participated in an epic, simulated mass casualty event on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at Gracetown Park in WA's south west.

It was a high-stakes, high-coordination operation that would make even the most seasoned Incident Controller pause for breath. The Coordinator on this occasion, however, was 18 year old SES Volunteer Joshua (Josh) Yates.

Josh, who is also a volunteer firefighter with the Wallcliffe Brigade, was appointed Margaret River SES Training Officer in August 2024, yet for 18 year old Josh, age is no barrier. He faced the challenge of planning and coordinating the inter-agency training exercise head on. Together with Margaret River's other Training Manager, Sarah Schuenemann, Josh spent over five months bringing the complex event to fruition.

Josh was determined to create a realistic scenario in a plausible environment. To achieve this to best effect, volunteer actors were engaged to mimic human casualties using injury moulage; his philosophy being that the more realistic the training then the better prepared emergency responders will be.

Preparations for the exercise commenced in October and from February onward Josh was devoting hours to the event each day, eventually working full time on the preparations for the last month.





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Training for the event was conducted on a weekly basis culminating in a monthly preparatory emergency scenario, initially on a small scale which was scaled up to the final inter-agency exercise – an event they plan to hold annually.

Josh recalled the major challenge was accommodating each agencies' needs and training requirements within a scenario where everyone had a distinct role but would work together as a cohesive team.

He commended the dedication of the exercise's participants; the majority of whom were local community volunteers. This was a testament to what Josh describes as an amazing sense of community – that nearly 80 people gave up many hours of personal time training over many months and, in the final exercise, giving up their Sunday, in order to help their local community if the worst was to occur.







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The unrelenting nature of the work of First Responders means that many do not have the time or resources to recover mentally and physically from the situations they experience in their roles. Traumatic stress injuries such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are common, and the impacts on first responders and their families can be over-whelming.



Join us in saying  
**thank you**  
to our local  
first responders

Wednesday June 11 2025

[thankafirstresponderday.org.au](http://thankafirstresponderday.org.au)



The simple act of saying thanks for the challenging, traumatic and often dangerous work our first responders do will ensure these dedicated men and women know that they are recognised, appreciated and valued by the communities they protect. Saying thanks is a critical step in helping first responders understand that just as they support us, we've got their backs.

## Grateful Residents thank their First Responders—NORTHSHORE SES

*On Saturday night I contacted the SES because of a situation with our roof letting in a lot of rain water.*

*I wish to commend very highly the response and the work of Penelope and her group to assist us in this matter. Their care and attention for us personally to ensure we were safe and to alleviate our stress, was wonderful.*

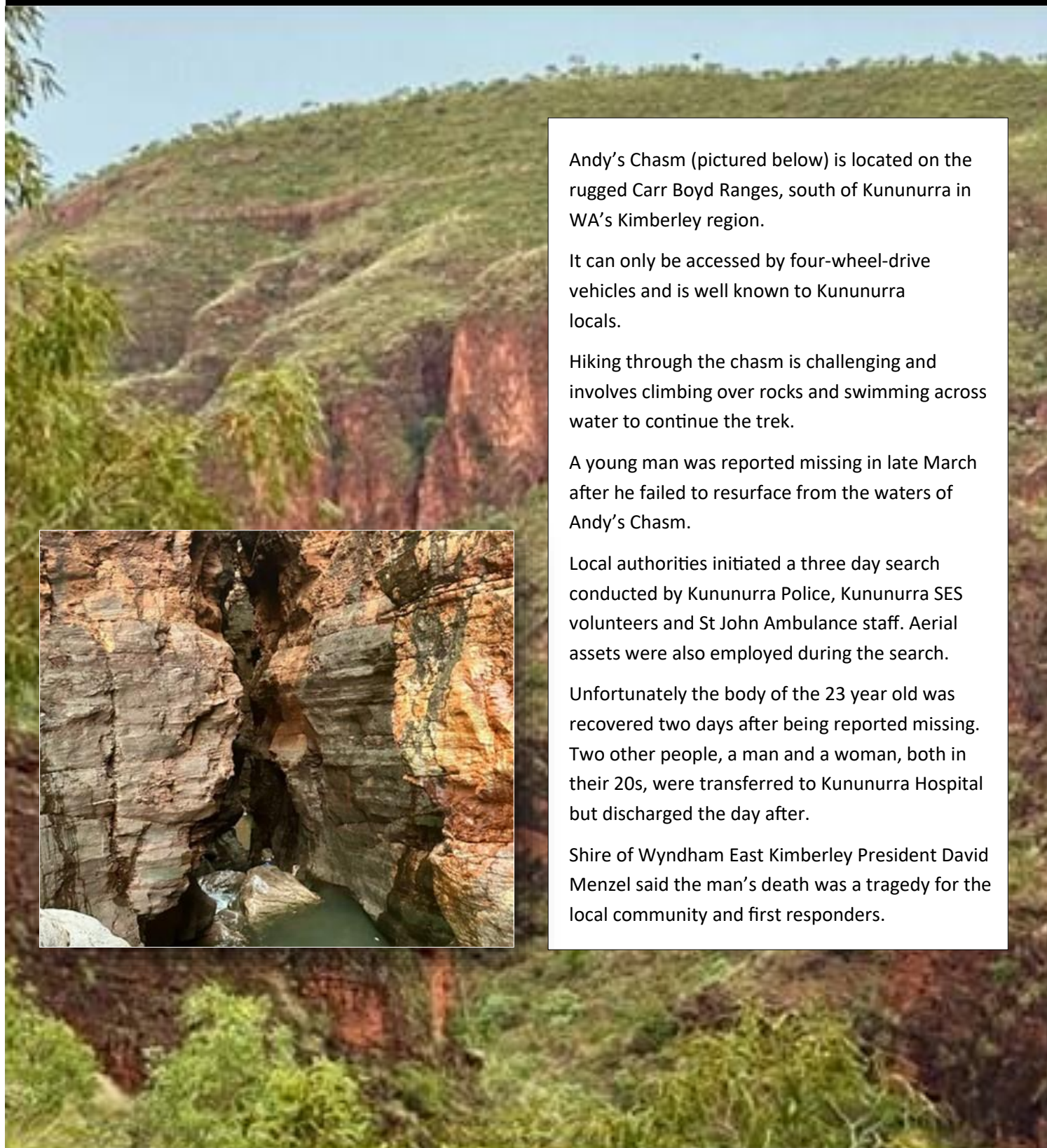
*They identified what seemed to be the problem and attended to it to make the situation safe. They also told us to contact them again if the problem was still not right. There was still water coming in on Sunday so they came again and did further work to make sure it was OK.*

*Penelope was leading again on Sunday and once again the whole process was carried out with every care and consideration. All the people who came to our assistance were really wonderful ambassadors for your organisation and I wish to thank them for their work and care for us and the professionalism of the SES."*

*Again many thanks  
Ingrid and Eric Chidlow*



## KUNUNURRA SES ASSIST POLICE IN SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN IN RUGGED TERRAIN OF CARR BOYD RANGES



Andy's Chasm (pictured below) is located on the rugged Carr Boyd Ranges, south of Kununurra in WA's Kimberley region.

It can only be accessed by four-wheel-drive vehicles and is well known to Kununurra locals.

Hiking through the chasm is challenging and involves climbing over rocks and swimming across water to continue the trek.

A young man was reported missing in late March after he failed to resurface from the waters of Andy's Chasm.

Local authorities initiated a three day search conducted by Kununurra Police, Kununurra SES volunteers and St John Ambulance staff. Aerial assets were also employed during the search.

Unfortunately the body of the 23 year old was recovered two days after being reported missing. Two other people, a man and a woman, both in their 20s, were transferred to Kununurra Hospital but discharged the day after.

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley President David Menzel said the man's death was a tragedy for the local community and first responders.





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## The 'Gorge Season' has begun for Tom Price SES Unit

The first rescue of 2025 occurred on 13th April at Fortescue Falls.

A gentleman slipped at the base and sustained a badly broken and dislocated ankle.

He was safely extricated from the gorge by Tom Price SES, Tom Price St John Ambulance, Karijini Rangers, Tom Price WAPOL and tourists.

The Tom Price SES team wish the injured tourist a speedy recovery.



Tom Price SES extend thanks to fellow emergency services colleagues and rangers with whom they enjoy a very professional, friendly relationship and remind travellers to stay safe while enjoying the wonders of Karijini National Park.



**Thank a First  
Responder Day**  
Information kit

[thankafirstresponderday.org.au](http://thankafirstresponderday.org.au)



Encourage work colleagues, friends and relatives to Thank A First Responder on June 11th.

The Information Kit can be downloaded [HERE](#).

The kit provides all the resources you need to show your gratitude on *Thank a First Responder Day*.





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## Albany and Denmark SES Crews Assist in Mount Hallowell Rescue

SES crews came to the rescue of an injured teenage hiker on Thursday as they carried him down a summit of more than 250 metres after he rolled his ankle.

St John Ambulance were called at 12.20pm to help the teenage male who had tripped on a rock near the top of Mount Hallowell in Ocean Beach, near Denmark.

After St John crews performed first aid, two crews from Albany and Denmark SES were tasked with taking the teenager down the mount as he could not walk on his own.

The two crews took five hours to find and carry the stretcher bound teenager down the steep track, reaching the bottom at 5.50pm.

A Department of Fire and Emergency services spokesperson said the crews considered phoning in the RAC rescue helicopter for an airlift rescue before deciding to brave the track themselves.

St John ambulance took him to Denmark Health Service under normal road speed at 6pm where he his ankle was treated.

The Mount Hallowell trail is 5.5km long and part of the Bibbulman Track and offers views of Monkey Rock and the Denmark coastline.

*Article and images courtesy Albany Advertiser*







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## SES Volunteer Community Award Winners



**Albany SES volunteer, Ben Whittle was awarded the 2025 Great Southern Volunteer of the Year Award on May 22**

The annual awards are organised by the Albany and Regional Volunteer Service to recognise the work of volunteers across the region.

Ben said he was proud to serve his community as an emergency services volunteer adding, "It was good to get the acknowledgement more than anything. We're definitely kept busy and we do a hard job sometimes, so it's nice to be nominated and to be recognised by the community."



**Margaret River SES volunteer, Keanan Hardegon received a Certificate of Recognition as a finalist in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Volunteer of the Year awards.**

The Shire celebrated its' local volunteers as part of National Volunteer Week. Recipients received their awards at the Community Volunteer Celebration event at the Margaret River Heart on 19th May.

Margaret River SES Local Manager, Petrina Yates, said "it was a wonderful recognition for Keanan (Crackers) who is always there when it counts, attending nearly every callout, supporting training and bringing positive energy and smiles to every training night. We are proud to have him on our team."





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## Finalist - WA Volunteer of the Year Award Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering



**Nicole Kelly, Tom Price SES, is an outstanding candidate for WA Volunteer of the Year Award in the Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering category.**

Nicole's exemplary life-long contribution to volunteering over the past 20 plus years saw her recognised as a finalist in the Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering category of the 2025 WA Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Nicole is a tireless volunteer whose contributions to her local community are truly exemplary. Not only is she the Deputy Local Manager of the Tom Price SES but she also plays a vital role in Tom Price across the range of emergency services that supports this remote community including volunteering for St John Ambulance, Lieutenant Tom Price Volunteer Fire and Rescue and Unit Leader for Tom Price Emergency Services Cadet Corps.

Nicole plays an instrumental role in overseeing vital areas across all services such as volunteer and community training, equipment management, the onboarding of new members and ensuring the smooth operations of the teams.

## Finalist - WA Volunteer of the Year Award WA Young Volunteer of the Year

**Millie Penman's contribution to volunteering in the SES, West Murray Bush Fire Brigade, Coastal Waste Warriors and Royal Australian Navy Cadets (Meadow Springs) saw her selected as a WA Young Volunteer of the Year Finalist.**

Sixteen year old Millie started volunteering at Scouts at four years of age where she would help at events and the local police station.

Ms Penman is a cadet unit leader at the Mandurah State Emergency Service. Alongside her commitments to various service organisations, she is training at TAFE to become an enrolled nurse.

Millie is a great role model, serves her peers and others well and provides leadership to all in her group.

Her ability to think outside the box and solve problems has made her an outstanding cadet and SES member.

She has put her valuable experience and skills learned from volunteering to action several times, the first being when she saved someone's life in 2021 at the age of just 12.





## News from Bayswater SES

Bayswater SES held its Annual Awards evening for 2025 on 23rd April. North Coastal Superintendent, Andy Duckworth, joined the Unit to present the awards. District Officers Glenn Hall and Ash Smith also attended, as did life members Brett O'Leary and Ray Mahoney. 2025 Award recipients are:

Paul Vermeltfoort	5 Years
Nicola Wilkinson	15 years
Sean O'Brien	15 years
Suellyn Luckett	15 years

Recent team leader course graduates also received their Deputy Team Leader stripes.  
Congratulations to all!



Bayswater Unit members on their way to New South Wales with the WA contingent to relieve SES volunteers and assist flooded communities.





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You might not be planning to travel to Sweden, but as our weather starts to feels like you're in the Arctic you can rug up with an SES Hoody, Scarf, or Beanie.



SES merchandise can be ordered by contacting the  
SESVA Office: [sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au)  
Mob: 0437287 210



Download Merchandise Catalogue from the SESVA website <https://ses-wa.asn.au/sesva-merchandise/>





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## FREMANTLE & WEST COAST EAGLES EMERGENCY SERVICES AFL FOOTBALL MATCHES

The Fremantle and West Coast Eagles football clubs have confirmed they will each run their own Emergency Services themed AFL football matches this year.

Both teams are running these matches independently and will use the occasion to thank Emergency Services personnel, including volunteers. Our colleagues at WA Police and St John as well as DFES Career FRS will also be recognised.

To provide a unique angle for each event the Fremantle match day will highlight DFES volunteers and Career FRS, while the West Coast Eagles match day will focus on recognizing young volunteers and Career FRS.

**Each match will run in a similar format to the 2024 events and include opportunities such as:**

**Pre-game activities and displays of appliances and equipment.**

**On field opportunities such as volunteers in a guard of honour as players run onto the ground, and tossing the coin.**

Each club has selected the round their match day will take place, which has now been confirmed by the AFL.

**FREMANTLE Saturday 12 July, 6:10 pm bounce down — includes SES volunteers**

**WEST COAST EAGLES Saturday 19 July, 6:10 pm bounce down — includes young volunteers**

DFES will communicate additional details in June.



## We're Looking for Your SES Unit's Good News Stories

The SESVA newsletter wants to celebrate the dedication, hard work and achievements of our member SES Units and Volunteers.

The SESVA Newsletter has a wide circulation that includes SES volunteers, politicians, interested Local Government Councillors and CEOs, DFES staff, other Emergency Service Associations and various community organisations.

Send your articles and especially some great images to:

[sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au)

Deadline to submit your article for the **July Monthly Update** is Tuesday 17th June.

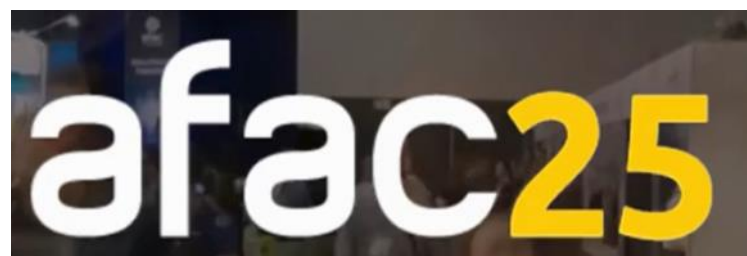
If you have any queries, please contact SESVA Secretary Allen Gale on 0419 935 497





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## 2025 W-AFAC Conference - a supercharged WAFES Conference for Volunteers

**Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th August 2025**  
**Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre**

### AFAC25 Exhibition Hours

**Tuesday 26 August: 1pm to 8pm (Welcome Function in the Exhibition Hall 6pm to 8pm)**

**Wednesday 27 August: 9am to 5pm**

**Thursday 28 August: 9am to 3.30pm**

**Location of the SESVA stand is CIRCLED below**



AFAC25 exhibition is a world class showcase of national and international brands, latest best practice solutions for all first responder sectors who protect life and property every day.

Exhibitors span the following collaboration groups.

- Capability – Fleet, PPE, and Equipment.
- Workforce – WHS, people systems and learning and development.
- Community Risk Reduction – Risk reduction, mitigation strategies, warning systems, and risk management.
- Response Operations – Real-time operational decision systems, decision support, incident management, emerging technology, communication technology, drones, satellite imagery, GIS, field rigid redeployable infrastructure.
- Fire Safety – Building fire safety systems, building standards.







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## Collie SES Youth in Emergency Services Cadet Program



In September 2024 Collie SES initiated a vision to establish a Youth in Emergency Services (YES) program in the South West region. The program was born from a commitment to empower local youth, strengthen future emergency response capabilities and foster greater understanding and collaboration across multiple emergency services. Those other services include Marine Rescue Bunbury, St. John Ambulance Collie Branch, local Bushfire brigades and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). Each agency will contribute to the delivery of training sessions, demonstrations and real world exposure to their specific areas of emergency response.

Following months of dedicated planning, community consultation and inter-agency support, the Collie YES program was officially launched on 30 April 2025 with 16 cadets enrolled and participating in two foundation training sessions. The focus of the foundation sessions was on Unit Familiarisation, the Code of Conduct and Unit Rules.

Cadets were warmly welcomed and given a comprehensive introduction to the program, the facility and expectations. Community engagement is a strong element of the program, so a dedicated parent and caregiver information session was held alongside the cadet program to provide families with an understanding of the YES Cadet initiative.

A multi-agency training calendar that includes the following modules has already been developed:

- Introduction to YES Cadets and Code of Conduct
- Introduction to Communications
- Introduction to Search
- Equipment familiarisation
- Team Building and Communication Exercises
- Introduction to Basic General Rescue (BGR)

The YES Program is not just a youth initiative –it's an investment in the community's future. Benefits include:

- Future Ready Volunteers
- Increased Community Resilience
- Stronger Local Networks
- Skill Development and
- Youth Engagement

With the enthusiastic involvement of cadets and the strong support of their families, Collie SES—together with the other participating agencies—is confident the program will continue to grow in both strength and impact. They look forward to the program's next stages and remain committed to supporting cadets as they begin their meaningful journey in emergency services and community leadership.

Strong expressions of interest continue to be received from young people keen to join.



*The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.  
acknowledges the funding from the  
Department of Fire and Emergency Services of WA  
that supports the operation of the Association.*

## USEFUL LINKS

[SES Volunteer's Association of Western Australia Incorporated – One Association – Many Values](#)

[Buy tickets and support the National SESVA NSESVA Yearbook 2024.pdf](#)

[Home | DFES Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

[State Emergency Management Committee](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)



## Birth of the SES Trauma Teddy

### HBF TRAUMA TED TO THE RESCUE

State Emergency Service (SES) Road Accident Rescue (RAR) teams can now offer comfort to children involved in road accidents with the aid of HBF Trauma Ted.

RAR teams throughout the State now have Trauma Ted to help children cope with the stress of road accidents.

Boddington SES has also benefited with equipment worth more than \$15,000 funded by corporate sponsor HBF.

The new hydraulic rescue equipment and Trauma Ted will greatly assist Boddington SES in road accident rescue operations.

The grant means the Boddington SES will be even better equipped for road accident rescue, particularly on the extremely busy and accident prone Albany Highway.

Boddington SES Manager Wayne English said the Boddington SES serviced an 80km radius as well as a 170km stretch of Albany Highway from Armadale to Williams.

"This area is remote as far as emergency response services go, so the travelling community is totally reliant on our services within this area," he said.

HBF Sponsorship Manager Fennela Gallagher said HBF was proud to provide funding to benefit Boddington and surrounding communities.



HBF Sponsorship Manager Fennela Gallagher (left) with Boddington SES Local Unit Manager Wayne English and SES Executive Director Susan Rooney with the new HBF Trauma Ted, designed to help children cope with the stress of road accident rescue.

Our sponsorship grant programs are designed to provide funding to SES units for emergency equipment that will assist them in their enormous task of helping protect and serve the WA community," Ms Gallagher said.

Ms Gallagher said the Ted, dressed in a SES uniform, had been designed to help comfort and ease the pain of children who are involved in a road accident rescue operation.

SES Executive Director Susan Rooney said the Trauma Ted project, funded by HBF, was a wonderful community project.

*Published in the West Australian Newspaper circa 1999*

